

June 7, 2010

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 7, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sargent.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Rische, Rudolph, Sargent,  
Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Galvin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,  
Planning Associate Crump, and  
Torrance Police Lieutenant Megeff.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tsao moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2010**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rudolph moved for the approval of the May 3, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioners Sargent and Walter abstaining).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

None.

**7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

**7a. SEASIDE RANCHO HOLIDAY TRAFFIC CIRCULATION DISCUSSION**

Transportation Manager Semaan relayed the City Attorney's Office decision that Commissioner Rische should excuse himself from discussion on this item because he resides in the Seaside Rancho area and is President of the Seaside Homeowners Association, adding that Commissioner Rische was welcome to speak as a resident.

Commissioner Rische stated that neither he nor the homeowners association have taken a position on this item and objected to the City saying that anyone who knows something about a particular item should not take part in the discussions.

Chairperson Galvin received clarification from Commissioner Rische that he did not want to excuse himself from the meeting.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated his intention to invite the City Attorney to the next Commission meeting to provide further explanation.

Transportation Manager Semaan briefly reviewed the material of record, noting Attachment A: 24-hour traffic volume counts on December 17, 2009, Attachment B: curb-to-curb dimensions, Attachment C: notice of this meeting, and Attachment D: Agenda Item 7A from the October 26, 2009 Commission meeting. He distributed supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared.

Planning Associate Crump provided background on the item and recommended that the Commission receive input from the public regarding traffic circulation in Seaside Rancho during the December holiday light displays. She asked that Commissioners provide feedback for an evaluation on the issues raised, advising that staff would bring the item back in August 2010 with potential recommendations.

Staff provided a video presentation, prepared by CitiCABLE with the Torrance Fire Department, showing the neighborhood on a weeknight and weekend night in December 2009. He noted that it took 36 minutes for a fire truck to enter Robert Road from the Fire Station on Calle Mayor and Pacific Coast Highway. He pointed out golf carts, parking violations, a trolley, a trailer full of people being towed by a vehicle, the directional flow of traffic and gaps, the high volume of pedestrians, and violations that occur with a restricted No Left Turn at Robert Road and Pacific Coast Highway.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the original concern was emergency vehicle access into the neighborhood and discussed the proposal to restrict parking on one side of the street. He related his observation that several sections have flow of traffic in one direction and that there is often physical space for cars to move over. He also noted that weekends are much more congested than weeknights and that there is a significant increase in traffic volume during the two weeks before Christmas.

Chairperson Galvin stated that it was apparent that the majority of residents do not want restricted parking and, in response to her inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that making streets one-way could be considered.

At 7:29 p.m., Chairperson Galvin welcomed public input.

Mike Reader, Sharynne Lane, stated that proposals should focus on the two weeks before Christmas and that traffic patterns are already unidirectional. He recommended closing the neighborhood to outside traffic at designated choke points and directing cars to a shuttle service from South High School.

Maria Fink, Linda Drive, read her October 2009 e-mail to Councilmember Numark expressing her concern that restricting parking would hurt residents and about the increasing number of unlicensed vendors. She stated that her suggestion to

implement a shuttle bus service from South High School would provide a more controlled environment and curb the number of cars being driven without lights on.

Victor Cooper, Sharynne Lane, recommended not implementing changes unless there is going to be enforcement, determining the mean time it takes to service a resident in the event of an emergency, and issuing stickers to allow resident parking only. He voiced support for a shuttle service into the neighborhood from South High School or Restaurant Row.

Gregg McClain, Zakon Road, expressed concern that restricting parking would lead to parking in surrounding areas including his block.

Wade Downey, Linda Drive, questioned what concern the Commission is trying to address. He stated that enforcement efforts should focus on creating good will and not turning a positive into a negative. He recommended developing a strategic emergency plan where vehicles could enter and exit the neighborhood, having police officers on bicycles, and creating a "parade route" for spectators. He voiced concern that restricting parking on one side of the street would create another lane for cars to drive in.

Mercedes Houghtaling, Doris Way, stated that a shuttle service would provide a safer atmosphere for the high volume of children and pedestrians.

Cecelia Peters, Linda Drive, stated that she is in favor of a shuttle service and regulation of outside vendors. She asked that residents be informed what the rules are to prevent misunderstandings.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, suggested putting cones up to prevent cars from turning left at Robert Road and Pacific Coast Highway. She made several suggestions to better control the flow of traffic and to direct cars to exits with the aid of signage. She stated that cars without headlights on and outside vendors should be prohibited.

John Houghtaling, Doris Way, expressed concern about the increase in limousines, golf carts, pickup trucks carrying passengers, and trailers. He maintained that restricting parking would hurt the residents and voiced support for a shuttle service.

Mark Forney, Sharynne Lane, noted that residents are leaving their lights on later and later and that the holiday period has expanded from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He suggested that residents voluntarily agree to turn their lights off earlier, especially on weeknights.

Commissioner Sargent asked Mr. Downey to define what he thinks the problem is.

Mr. Downey responded that the problem is not really parking but the proliferation of vendors, type and use of vehicles on the road, and traffic flow.

Commissioner Tsao expressed support for a one-year trial of a shuttle service from South High School, the use of a private company or volunteers to monitor traffic flow, and a residential parking permit system. He encouraged residents to take a leadership role in resolving the problems.

Chairperson Galvin questioned the practicality, enforceability, and financial viability of closing off the neighborhood, a shuttle service, a permit parking system, and stopping some vendors and not others. She suggested that the homeowners association reach a consensus to turn lights out earlier.

Responding to her inquiry, Lieutenant Megeff stated that golf carts can be street legal or illegal and that outside vendors are required to have business licenses.

Commissioner Rische stated that the City should take a stand—either to stop the holiday light display or to take steps to regulate and enforce it. He noted that there are several ways to get in and out of the area and that the Fire Department is aware of them. He recommended the use of signs to direct traffic flow and stated that implementing a shuttle service is an interesting idea.

Commissioner Clouch stated that there should be enforcement of what already exists and that the City should be asked to financially support an event that draws in such a large number of people. He stated that restricting parking on one side of the street would provide another lane for cars to drive in.

Commissioner Sargent suggested that the homeowners association turn in a list of residents who want to sell items. He stated that a shuttle service is a viable option and suggested approaching Torrance Unified School District for its cooperation.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that there should be some responsibility for such an enormous event and also some sacrifice on the part of participants. He noted that addressing the problem of cars turning left at Pacific Coast Highway should be a major priority. He stated that there would need to be multiple solutions for all the issues and offered one suggestion to designate specific entry locations for emergency vehicles only.

In response to his suggestion, Transportation Manager Semaan offered to research what other cities are doing that have similar light displays as well as the dynamics involved in providing a shuttle service.

Lieutenant Megeff stated that it is not the intent of the Police Department to create ill will and that few citations are actually issued. He noted that this year they plan to deploy officers on straight time to enforce safety issues.

Commissioner Walter stated that Public Works installs signage throughout the neighborhood and leaves cones out on Pacific Coast Highway for officers to utilize as needed.

Boris Simcich, Carol Drive, suggested having an ambulance or fire truck parked during the busiest times at the blind loop on Carol Drive.

Chairperson Galvin stated that it is important for the Commission to hear from the Fire Department and asked staff to look into the feasibility of better directional signage, making some streets one way during the month of December, and emergency access through the City of Redondo Beach.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Transportation Manager Semaan asked the Commission to adjourn to July 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. for a continuation of the Commission Workshop with Len Wood.

**8b.** Commissioner Sargent relayed a resident's suggestion to install "Keep to the Right" signs at the five-way intersection at the lower end of Monte d'Oro.

**8c.** Commissioner Rudolph related his observation of heavy traffic congestion at 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff is aware of the problem and noted that numerous studies have been conducted but mitigation measures identified would require substantial time and money.

**8d.** Chairperson Galvin received clarification from staff that stop signs are being incrementally installed in the Hickory Park neighborhood.

**8e.** Commissioner Clouch stated that he supports Commissioner Rische's position to not excuse himself from this meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:09 p.m., Commissioner Rudolph moved to adjourn the meeting to July 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Galvin so ordered.

Approved as Submitted July 13, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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